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SUDAN NEWS-FEED

August 3, 2005

SUDAN NEWS-FEED For Wednesday, August 3, 2005

**Compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan.
The Sudan News-Feed attempts to present a summary covering the spectrum of Sudanese
press and international reporting about Sudan.
This report summarizes and covers the news but does not necessarily reflect the views of
the U.S. Government.**

Top Headlines from the Sudanese Press

The following are top headlines from the Sudanese press on August 3, 2005:

“Khartoum Monitor”-- independent with pro-Southern Sudan orientation daily English-language newspaper

- Garang to Be Buried in Juba
- Archbishop Paulino Lukdu is Not Dead
- U.S. Dispatches Top African Envoys After Garang’s Death
- Sudan Peace Pact Marks New Chapter
- Garang to Be Buried Saturday
- SLA Rebels Skeptical About Peace in Darfur
- Where Does Garang’s Death Leave Sudan’s Peace Process?
- Commentary (by senior editor): Split Feared in Race for Successor

“Sudan Vision”-- pro-GOS daily English-language newspaper **<http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com>**

- Garang to be Buried in Juba On Saturday
- US Dispatches Top Envoys After Garang Death
- Salva Kir to be Sworn in As First Vice President
- SPLM Leadership Calls for An Official International Investigation on Plane Crash
- Bush Deeply Saddened by Garang’s Death
- Annan Urges Calm After Death of Sudan VP
- Museveni Releases Statement On Garang’s Death
- EU Representative for the CFSP Deplores the Death of Sudanese Vice President
- African Mission in Sudan Issues Press Statement
- The Shock, the Trauma and the Reaction
- Leaders Hope that Garang’s Death is Not an Obstacle to Peace
- Garang’s Successor Chosen, World Urges Calm in Sudan
- The Enemies of Beauty and Tolerance
- Editorial: Self-Restraint Required
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Tragic Death of a Leader
- Commentary (regular columnist): Dr. Garang’s Charismatic Image
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Essential Need for Tolerance

“Sudan News Agency (SUNA)” -- the Government-owned daily English-language bulletin

- Al-Bashir: Death of Garang Is A Great Loss
- Council of Ministers Holds Extraordinary Session, Declare Mourning in the Country
- SPLM Leaders Receive Condolences Over Death of Dr. John Garang
- Rebecca Garang Affirms Importance of Joint Work to Realize Peace Goals
- Taha Leaves for Saudi Arabia to Participate in Funeral of King Fahad
- UN Envoy Appreciates Improvement of Security and Humanitarian And Health Conditions in South Darfur

“Al-Ayaam”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper

[<http://www.alayaam.net>](http://www.alayaam.net)

- UN Security Council Calls on Sudanese People to Remain Calm
- Garang to be Buried in Juba
- National Congress Welcomes Selection of Sylva Kir As Head of the SPLA
- Forty-Six killed Following Riots in Khartoum
- SPLA To Participate in Higher Committee for Imposing Order in Khartoum
- Southern Sudan Defense Forces Affirms Leadership of Sylva Kir
- AU Presents Its Condolences Over Death of First Vice President Garang
- Looting Continues in Various Parts of Khartoum
- Editorial: Who is to Stop the Chaos of the Mob?
- Commentary (regular columnist): The New SPLA Leadership and the Imminent Challenges
- Commentary (regular columnist): Between Noble Sadness and Exploding Anger

“Al-Anbaa” -- the Government-owned daily Arabic-language newspaper

<http://www.alanbaa.info>

- First Vice President Garang to be Buried in Juba Next Saturday
- GOS Delegation Arrives in New Site
- Southern Sudan Defense Forces Affirm Commitment to Peace
- Pronk: GOS is Keen on Realizing Peace in Darfur Before the End of This Year

“Al-Rai Al-Aam” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper

<http://www.rayaam.net>

- Civilians Dead and Injured Following Confrontations Between Vandals and Victims
- Sylva Kir Swears in as Vice President Following Garang's Funeral
- Police Reinforcements Positioned in Various Parts in Khartoum
- Two American Envoys Arrive to Support of Peace Process
- Garang to be Buried in Juba
- UN Calls on Sudanese People to Remain Calm
- Report: Has the Government Failed in Managing the Crisis in Khartoum
- Report: Khartoum Incidents, Why?

- Commentary (regular columnist): It is the Government's Fault, that We Are in this Situation

"Al-Sahafa"-- pro-GOS but increasingly independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alsahafa.info/news>

- Sylva Kir: The Peace Process Will Go Forward
- Sylva Kir Calls on Southerners to Exercise Self-Restraint
- Clashes Between Civilians in Suburbs of Khartoum
- National Congress Delegation Arrives in New Site
- Al-Merghani to Participate in Garang's Funeral
- Two American Envoys to Arrive in Khartoum by the End of this Week
- U.S. Envoys Scheduled to Meet Taha and Ismail
- Political Parties Participate in Garang's Funeral
- Editorial: No One Will Gain Anything from Sedition
- Commentary (regular columnist): Constitutional Vacuum

"Alwan"-- pro -Popular Congress Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Chaos and Violence Engulfs Khartoum
- Washington Sends Two Envoys to Sudan to Push Forward the Peace Process
- Southern Sudan Defense Forces Affirms Leadership of Sylva Kir
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Death of Garang Saddened Us, but More Importantly We Were Saddened by the Inefficiency of the State

"Al-Hayat" -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alhayatsdn.com>

- Garang to be Buried Next Saturday in Juba
- GOS Delegation Leaves to New Site to Present Condolences to SPLA
- Head of Police Forces: Situation in the Capital is Under Control
- Commentary (regular columnist): Regarding Security

"Al-Adwaa"-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
aladdwaa@myway.com

- Quietness in Khartoum and Confrontations in Suburbs
- Sylva Kir to be Appointed as Vice President Next Week
- SPLA To Participate in Higher Committee for Imposing Order in Khartoum
- UN Security Council Calls on Sudanese People to Honor the Death of Garang by Putting an End to Violence
- NDA: Our Stance Regarding Peace in Sudan Has Not Changed
- Editorial: The Challenge of Coexistence and Unity
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Failure of Security Authorities in Sudan

“Al-Khartoum” - pro-Democratic Unionist Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Violence Increases in Khartoum and More Forces Distributed in the Capital
- Presidential Legal Adviser’s House Vandalized
- Wali of Khartoum Refutes Allegations Regarding the Security Authorities’ Inability to Restore Order
- Deputy Head of National Congress Describes Visit by American Officials to Sudan As Intervention in Sudanese Affairs and a Threat to Sudan’s Unity
- Editorial: The Death of Garang and the Consequences

The following articles from the Sudanese and international press are included in full in the attachment below.

Washington Post

Sudan Violence Rages As Death Toll Hits 46

By Emily Wax

August 3, 2005

The New York Times

A Death In Sudan

August 3, 2005

The New York Times

Amid Sudan Riots, a Fighter Takes the Role of Peacemaker

By Marc Lacey

August 3, 2005

The Washington Times

U.S. Hopeful Sudan's Fragile Peace Will Hold

By David Sands

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The Guardian

What They Said About ... The Death Of John Garang

Toby Manhire

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The Guardian

John Garang

By Julie Flint

August 3, 2005

The Guardian

Killing Hope

August 3, 2005

The Associated Press

Curfew Fails To Stem Violence In Sudan

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005

The Associated Press

Sudanese SPLM Calls For International Probe Into Garang's Death

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005

Associated Press

Riots Turn Sudan's Capital Into A City Of Ethnic Rifts And Fear

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005

The Associated Press

Sudanese Clash After Garang's Death

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005.

AFP

World Rushes To Rescue Of Fragile Post-Garang Sudan

August 3, 2005

AFP

Uganda Fears Garang's Death May Prolong Brutal War With LRA Rebels

August 3, 2005

The East African Standard (a Kenyan daily)

August 3, 2005

Other websites for Sudan News:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/May/12-676357.html?chanlid=washfile>

<http://www.state.gov>

<http://allafrica.com>

<http://www.sudanmirror.com>

Sudan Radio Service

<http://www.sudanradio.org>

<http://www.sol-sd.com>

<http://sudan.net>

<http://www.sudantribune.com>

<http://smcsudan.net>

Civilian Protection Monitoring Team website

<http://www.cpmtsudan.org>

IRIN News (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs--SUDAN page)

http://www.irinnews.org/frontpage.asp?SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=Sudan

UN News Centre (SUDAN page)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88&Body=Sudan&Body1>

Relief Web (SUDAN page):

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-636PJQ&rc=1>

Alertnet (SUDAN page)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/246397.htm>

Humanitarian Information Center for Darfur:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/default>

Al Bab: Khartoum Handbook and Diary

<http://www.coresudan.com>

Refugees International:

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org>

NATO

<http://www.nato.int/>

U.S. European Command

<http://www.eucom.mil/english/index.asp>

<http://www.transcom.mil>

Sudan Violence Rages As Death Toll Hits 46

Washington Post

By Emily Wax

August 3, 2005

NAIROBI, Aug. 2 -- More violence erupted in Sudan's shaken capital Tuesday following the sudden death of ex-rebel leader John Garang, who was killed in a helicopter crash over the weekend soon after becoming vice president in a peace deal that many hoped would end the country's 21-year civil war.

The clashes have killed 46 people over two days, officials said, and echoed the ethnic and religious tensions that fueled the civil war between Sudan's Muslim north and the largely Christian and animist south. A separate conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region is continuing.

Plumes of smoke rose from burning cars, armored vehicles stood at crossroads and government helicopters flew over tense shantytowns outside the capital, Khartoum, news agencies and residents reported.

"Things are bad here. Arab gangs are going to neighborhoods and attacking people with swords and sticks. This is a retaliation from yesterday's riots," said Alfred Taban, publisher of the Khartoum Monitor, Sudan's only independent English-language newspaper. He spoke by telephone from Khartoum.

Garang's successor as head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Salva Kiir Mayardit, called for calm as he prepared to assume the post of vice president. In New Site, Garang's base village in southern Sudan, mourners viewed his body, covered with a rebel flag on a simple bed, and prepared for an elaborate traditional funeral Saturday.

In Khartoum, the day began quietly. But with the midday heat, observers reported, angry mobs of northern Sudanese youths lashed out against southern Sudanese in retaliation for rioting and looting Monday against northern-owned businesses and property. Officials said 36 people were killed and more than 100 injured in Monday's violence.

Southern Sudanese mobs burned cars and fired guns into the air Monday, venting their anger at Garang's death and accusing the government of plotting to kill him. His helicopter crashed on a rocky mountainside in bad weather a few miles from New Site as he was returning from an official visit to Uganda. There were no reports of foul play.

Kiir, making his first public appearance as the south's new leader, went on television and radio Tuesday, saying the country needed to chart a path forward and reaffirming that no foul play was involved in Garang's death.

Garang's widow, Rebecca, also reiterated calls for calm, saying, "It is just my husband who has died. His vision is alive," Reuters reported.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said there seemed to be an "orderly and peaceful succession process" so far in the vice presidential transition. "That is very positive," said the spokesman, Tom Casey. Two U.S. envoys were en route to Sudan to encourage a smooth transition, officials said.

Kiir is a longtime commander of southern rebel troops. He has little political experience but is outspoken and popular among the troops.

Garang was known as a dictatorial leader, which some analysts said was an asset in a rebel movement prone to split along ethnic lines. Kiir's style is more collegial, but some observers said that could be a disadvantage.

"It's definitely going to be a liability. . . . Many southern leaders are likely to challenge him because he is not as autocratic," said Taban, the publisher. But Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo, a Kenyan who helped mediate the peace talks in Kenya, was more optimistic, saying Kiir might prove to be a more open leader than Garang.

Garang was sworn in as vice president on July 8 under a U.S.-backed peace deal between the Arab-led government in Khartoum and the largely African rebel forces of the marginalized south, which had long fought for separation.

Now leaders said calm must be restored or everything could fall apart.

"We have to hope that these clashes die down and the country begins to mourn," said Telar Deng, a former leader of the New Sudan Council of Churches, speaking by telephone from Khartoum. "We all have wanted peace for a long time."

Garang will be buried in the main southern city, Juba. His body will first be taken to Rumbek and other major southern towns to allow mourners to pay their final respects before the state funeral in New Site.

A Death In Sudan

The New York Times

August 3, 2005

John Garang became Sudan's first vice president three weeks ago, on July 9. More than a million Sudanese showed up to salute him when he joined his old enemy, President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, to sign a new constitution. Garang's ascendance, along with the peace deal it brought, was hailed as a rare success story in Africa, one that could mark the end of more than

two decades of war. There was also hope that the unity government between the largely Christian and animist south and the Muslim north might eventually be able to extend the newly cobbled-together peace between the north and south to the western territory, which includes Darfur.

It is tragic that these hopes have already been dashed. The death of Garang over the weekend in a helicopter crash spawned some of the worst rioting in Khartoum in years, prompting the government to announce a dusk-to-dawn curfew. The situation is frustrating for Sudan's neighbors, which recently helped negotiate the end to the conflict, Africa's longest civil war. It is heartbreaking for the Sudanese people, particularly in the south, Garang's region, who believed that an end to their years of turmoil was at hand.

It really doesn't have to be like this. Garang's death doesn't have to tear the peace deal asunder. To salvage the situation, Garang's party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, needs to choose a worthy successor. Garang's widow, Rebecca, has thrown in her lot with the party's deputy leader, Salva Kiir. Kiir lacks Garang's charisma, but it's time for the Sudanese - and indeed, for Africans as a whole - to stop pinning their hopes on magnetic strongmen, and instead empower the democratic institutions the continent desperately needs. That would be a fitting tribute for Garang, a rebel leader who spent his life giving a voice to the millions in southern Sudan who couldn't make themselves heard.

Amid Sudan Riots, a Fighter Takes the Role of Peacemaker

The New York Times

By Marc Lacey

August 3, 2005

NEW SITE, Sudan, Aug. 2 - Salva Kiir Mayardit, the newly installed chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Army who is expected to be selected as vice president of Sudan, is a fierce fighter with traditional Dinka tribal scarring on his forehead and eyes that betray little.

Mr. Kiir - who takes over for John Garang, the Sudanese-rebel-leader-turned-vice-president who died in a helicopter crash over the weekend - has fought shoulder to shoulder and occasionally face to face with Mr. Garang for two decades.

He now finds himself fighting for peace. A deal aimed at ending Africa's longest civil war, which pits Sudan's Arab Islamist government against southern rebels, was at a critical stage when Mr. Garang died.

For the second straight day, southerners rioted Tuesday in Khartoum, the capital, out of fury that the government might have had a hand in Mr. Garang's death. After 36 deaths on Monday, the scene was tense with riot police officers in the streets and a dusk-to-dawn curfew in place.

It is now up to Mr. Kiir, the consensus choice to replace Mr. Garang, to settle the violence and keep the peace agreement on track.

His heroics at a battle in which the rebels briefly seized the town of Pashala, near Sudan's border with Ethiopia, are still remembered 21 years later. The rebel movement was young then,

and Mr. Kiir's surprise victory over the Sudanese government forces prompted many more people to join.

"It has been a very long time," Mr. Kiir, 54, said wistfully on Tuesday of his long career as a guerrilla fighter, stretching back to the early 1970's. Mr. Kiir spent years with the Sudanese Army, but defected to the rebel side in 1983.

Mr. Kiir is as tall and imposing as his predecessor, but he lacks much of the flair of Mr. Garang, who studied at Grinnell College, held a doctorate in economics from Iowa State University and received military training in the United States.

Still, Mr. Kiir speaks English, Arabic and his native Dinka, as did Mr. Garang, and is steeped in the history of the armed struggle that has consumed his life.

Mr. Kiir sits quietly most of the time at the political meetings he has presided over nonstop since Mr. Garang's death, colleagues say, stroking his bushy beard and surveying the room. But when he speaks, he does so bluntly, like the career military man that he is.

"I hope you have no ammunition in these things," he said of the microphones set before him in his first interview with reporters on Tuesday afternoon at this command center in a southeastern corner of Sudan.

Mr. Kiir speaks glowingly of Mr. Garang these days and pledges to push forward his predecessor's vision of modernizing the neglected south of Sudan.

But Mr. Kiir was chastising Mr. Garang just months ago for his autocratic leadership style.

Mr. Kiir's protests prompted Mr. Garang to convene a crisis meeting last fall in the interim southern capital, Rumbek. In that session Mr. Kiir won strong support for his critique of the rebel commander, but ultimately his concerns were pushed aside. The peace talks were in a crucial phase at the time, and others in the movement believed that Mr. Garang required their full support.

In the months after that confrontation, there was a widespread expectation that Mr. Garang would sideline his deputy. In fact, some people seen as close to Mr. Kiir lost out on important assignments in the government that Mr. Garang was putting together.

But just weeks ago, Mr. Garang appointed Mr. Kiir as his deputy, which rebel leaders saw as a signal from Mr. Garang that he had become more inclusive.

In the 21 years he ruled the S.P.L.A., as the rebel force is known, Mr. Garang was long criticized as an autocrat. In but one example, he summarily disbanded the rebel movement's National Liberation Council earlier this year, saying the cadre of rebel elders had served its purpose during wartime. Mr. Garang appointed many of the elders to top leadership posts, but that did not stop members from crying foul.

"I went to him in Khartoum and said, 'Why did you disband the council?' " said Lual Diing Woll, 71, a member of Mr. Garang's inner circle. "He said, 'I decided.' Then I left."

That was frequently the response Mr. Garang gave critics. "The problem was he made decisions by himself, and if he made a mistake he'd never go back," Mr. Diing said. "He made decisions alone."

Mr. Kiir glossed over their disagreements on Tuesday. "Whether his style was good or not good is no longer relevant," he said, adding that his concerns were never meant to torpedo the peace accord, signed in January after years of struggle.

U.S. Hopeful Sudan's Fragile Peace Will Hold

The Washington Times

By David Sands

August 3, 2005

U.S. officials said yesterday they are cautiously optimistic that Sudan's fragile peace deal will hold, despite a spate of violence after the death of longtime rebel leader John Garang in a helicopter crash over the weekend.

Assistant Secretary of State Constance Newman and U.S. special envoy to Sudan Roger Winter are set to meet today with Salva Kiir Mayardit, Mr. Garang's longtime ally, who has taken his place as head of the southern Sudanese rebel movement and as first vice president in the unity government in Khartoum.

Sudanese authorities say at least three dozen people were killed in and around the capital in rioting after the news of Mr. Garang's death, but State Department spokesman Tom Casey said the situation "was a good deal calmer" than it was Monday.

He noted that both the government and Mr. Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement appealed for calm in the wake of the rebel leader's death, and U.S. officials said they saw little sign that either side was trying to exploit the tension to reignite Africa's longest armed conflict.

"We're confident that both sides are committed and continue to be committed to implementing that comprehensive peace agreement," Mr. Casey said. "Both sides have signaled that to us in our conversations with them."

The government of President Omar Bashir staged a major show of force in Khartoum, where much of this week's violence took place. Police, soldiers and armored personnel carriers patrolled the center of the capital, although sporadic gunfire could be heard in outlying areas.

"There were some limited clashes in the outskirts of the capital. Police have established control over those areas now," Sudanese Interior Minister Ahmad Mohamed Haraun told reporters in Khartoum yesterday.

The worst clashes yesterday were reported in the Khartoum suburb of Hajj Yusef, which has a large southern community. Many are skeptical of the government's claims that Mr. Garang's death was an accident.

The government, which has battled Mr. Garang's southern movement for more than two decades, also dispatched a delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Nafie Ali Nafie to the southern regional capital of Juba as a sign of respect for Mr. Garang. He is to be buried in the city Saturday.

The charismatic rebel leader's death has thrown a huge shadow over the U.S.-backed efforts to end the civil war between the largely Muslim north and the non-Muslim south.

Mr. Kiir, 54, appealed for restraint and patience on all sides in remarks to reporters in southern Sudan.

"The message is to remain calm and peaceful," Mr. Kiir said. "There cannot be any development when there is no peace."

A collapse of the fledgling unity government would also be a huge setback to international efforts to end the murderous conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, which the Bush administration has said amounts to genocide against the black African population.

The Darfur crisis led to an intense U.S. and international diplomatic effort to secure a peace accord.

What They Said About ... The Death Of John Garang

The Guardian

Toby Manhire

August 3, 2005

On Saturday, just three weeks after he was installed as the Sudanese vice-president, John Garang was killed in a helicopter crash. The death of the former leader of the rebel faction the Sudan People's Liberation army (SPLA), who signed a peace deal in January to end a 22-year-old conflict, left the country on a knife edge, observers agreed.

"For two decades, Mr Garang personified Sudan's bloody civil war," said Abraham McLaughlin in the US-based Christian Science Monitor. "For the past seven months, he personified peace. His death will sharply test which legacy will prevail."

With Mr Garang's death sparking riots, there were calls for calm. "The Sudanese people must rally efforts to achieve peace and security," urged Egypt's Al-Gomhuria. The Ugandan daily **New Vision** asked for caution on a wider scale. "All Sudanese, Africans and the world community should ensure that his death does not scuttle peace," it said. The Kenyan Standard added: "Deviating from the path of peace would be to betray the ideals and vision Mr Garang fought for."

Commentators wasted little time before considering who might take over as leader of the SPLA and its political arm, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. The London-based pan-Arab Al-Quds al-Arabi judged that "the biggest mistake Mr Garang made was not to leave behind a strong deputy". It was certainly no easy task, added the Pan-African News Agency, to find someone with the "credibility, stature and unifying appeal to step into the shoes of [the] legendary guerrilla leader".

The New York Times correctly predicted Salva Kiir, Mr Garang's deputy, as the most likely successor. "He lacks Mr Garang's charisma but it's time for the Sudanese - and ... for Africans as a whole - to stop pinning their hopes on magnetic strongmen, and instead empower the democratic institutions the continent desperately needs."

Not everyone had thought Mr Garang to still be the right man for the job, noted the Kenyan Nation. "There are many who held firmly that while Mr Garang won the war, he didn't have it in him to be the peace leader, where a more consultative style was required," it said. "All that and more might be true. But when all is said and done, [he] will still be judged kindly by history."

John Garang

The Guardian

By Julie Flint

August 3, 2005

Authoritative Sudanese leader and former rebel commander with a vision of a secular, democratic Sudan

John Garang, who has died in a helicopter crash, aged 60, was first vice president of Sudan for just three weeks, and the first southerner to hold such high office. His death is a body blow to the painstakingly negotiated and still fragile peace agreement that ended Africa's longest civil war seven months ago. It has robbed Sudan's marginalized non-Arab communities of a man who, even if they opposed him, stood as a symbol of dignity and hope of change.

Ever since Garang signed the comprehensive peace agreement with President Omar Bashir in Nairobi on January 9, officially ending a conflict that killed at least 2 million people, southerners had feared he would be assassinated. Peace was illusory, they said; the hardline Islamists at the core of Bashir's regime had no intention of sharing either power or wealth.

That the first word of Garang's death came from Bashir's office will only have hardened their suspicions - even though the incident happened in southern Sudan, on a flight back from a weekend meeting with the Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni. All the indications so far suggest it was due to bad weather or a lack of fuel - not to sabotage.

Urbane and eloquent, fluent in Arabic and with an exquisite command of English, Garang was born in Buk, a tiny Dinka village in Bor county, on the east bank of the Nile. No one in Buk, he once said, was able even to read. By the age of 10, he was orphaned, and might have stayed in Bor for the rest of his life, becoming a cattle herder like his father and grandfather, had a relative not sent him to school, first in nearby Wau, then across the Nile in Rumbek.

In 1962, at the age of 17, Garang attempted to join the Anyanya uprising in southern Sudan, but was encouraged by its leaders to continue his secondary education in Tanzania. He went on to win a scholarship to Grinnell College, in Iowa, and, in 1969, took a BSc in economics.

He was offered a graduate fellowship at the University of California in Berkeley, but chose to return to Tanzania as a research fellow at Dar es Salaam University. There, he met a future ally, Museveni, but was soon back in Sudan, with Anyanya.

When the Addis Ababa agreement of 1972 ended Sudan's first civil war, many rebels, Garang among them, were incorporated into the Sudanese armed forces. After that, during 11 years as a career soldier, he rose from captain to colonel, completed an advanced course at the US army infantry school in Fort Benning, Georgia, and took a four-year break to study for an MA in agricultural economics and a PhD in economics at Iowa State University.

On returning to Sudan in 1981, he found great change. President Jaafar Nimeiri, formerly close to the Communist party, was leaning towards the Islamists, who favoured the introduction of sharia law, even in the predominantly Christian south. Garang realised that the peace agreement was doomed, even before Nimeiri abrogated it in 1983 and imposed sharia throughout the country.

In May 1983, Garang was sent to his old command in Bor to quell a mutiny of 500 southern troops - commanded by officers absorbed from Anyanya - who were resisting orders to move north. He vanished.

More than two months later, he reappeared in Ethiopia, where Mengistu Haile Mariam enthroned him as head of the new Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), with the rebellious Bor garrison as its nucleus. Early military successes were followed by lengthy stalemates and crippling splits within the SPLA, often along tribal lines and exacerbated by the arrogant, authoritarian leadership of Garang and his Bor Dinka inner circle.

When Mengistu's regime collapsed in 1991, and the SPLA lost its chief financial backer, Garang looked west, stressing the Christian character of much of the Sudanese south and Khartoum's efforts to impose sharia upon it. In its early years, the SPLA was, in the words of an internal critic, "a militarist instrument intolerant and averse to democratic methods and principles", hostile to politicians and intellectuals. Many southerners were killed; others were imprisoned and tortured.

But the SPLA evolved - slowly, and not always surely - from its origins as a brutal, Soviet-supported, insurgency towards a movement more genuinely representative of all Sudanese who craved Garang's "new Sudan" - a secular, pluralist, democratic nation dominated by southerners and marginalised northerners. His agreement to negotiate humanitarian access for the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan was a first for a rebel movement, and set an example many now follow.

Garang never deviated from his vision of the new Sudan. He knew that most southerners, even within the SPLA, wanted a separate state and, left to his own devices, would not have agreed to the referendum on self-determination that the peace agreement requires be held in six years' time.

His death puts the new Sudan, and its unity, in jeopardy. It also casts a shadow over prospects for peace in Darfur. Garang enjoyed considerable influence with the largest rebel group there, the Sudan Liberation Army, and his authoritative, energetic presence in a national unity government would have been a powerful force against continued government-sponsored aggression.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, two sons and three daughters.

Killing Hope

The Guardian

August 3, 2005

After the tempered optimism of last month's Gleneagles summit come tragic reminders that Africa's wounds are too deep to be easily balmed. The sights and sounds of the famine in Niger, now encroaching upon neighbouring Mauritania and Burkina Faso, is one such reminder, as the disasters emergency committee yesterday launched an appeal on behalf of the UK's major aid agencies. Another reminder came with the confirmation of the death of the southern Sudanese leader John Garang in a helicopter crash last weekend, one which could unravel a peace deal that had at last promised an end to the bloody civil war raging there since 1983.

The untimely death of Mr Garang - who struggled for two decades on behalf of the southern half of the country as leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army - sows the seeds of a disaster that demands rapid action by the international community. The potential for disaster comes in two forms. First, it threatens to reignite the civil war between the northern-based military dictatorship and the secessionist forces in the south. Second, continuing unrest makes it much more difficult to tackle the roots of the atrocities still to this day being carried out in Darfur, the western province of Sudan suffering its own bitter fighting and accusations of genocide against government-backed Janjaweed gangs. For both of these reasons the United Nations and the African Union, along with the US and European Union, must take an active role in keeping all sides involved in continuing the peace process.

A trained economist and soldier, Mr Garang staked a huge degree of his personal prestige on entering into the agreement signed in January. While other sections of the SPLA wanted nothing less than an independent southern Sudan, Mr Garang was willing to settle for autonomy for the region as part of a unitary nation state. As part of the deal he was appointed vice-president, a role he had filled for just three weeks before last weekend's crash. Already his supporters see in his death a plot by the government, leading to violent riots. But the fact that Mr Garang was flying in a Ugandan military helicopter, returning from a meeting with that country's president, discounts any wild speculation.

So far Mr Garang's successor as SPLA leader and vice-president, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has called for January's peace deal to be upheld. The world must do all it can to encourage that engagement,

by continuing to press its carrot of aid and stick in the form of sanctions. The innocent of Darfur are still waiting to be saved.

Curfew Fails To Stem Violence In Sudan

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005

Khartoum - Frightened Sudanese carried clubs for protection as another day of violence turned to bloody revenge attacks between Muslim Arabs and Khartoum residents from the mostly Christian and animist south, enraged and saddened over the death of their hero John Garang.

Armed gangs, said to be Arabs, broke into homes of southerners in several parts of the capital on Tuesday, and Garang supporters attacked Muslim neighborhoods. At least 49 people were killed over two days, according to a United Nations official, though the number was not officially confirmed.

Television footage showed southerners' homes torn apart, furniture smashed and doors hanging on hinges. In some neighbourhoods, southern men carried sticks and bricks, saying they had heard that northerners were coming and they needed to protect themselves.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared for the second night in a row. In the evening, four armored vehicles sat parked on a downtown street, facing the direction of Omdurman, Khartoum's sister-city across the Nile, where some of the worst clashes were reported.

The death of Garang, the southern rebel leader-turned-vice president, ruptured the long coexistence in Khartoum between northerners and the nearly two million southerners who live in squatter neighbourhoods in the city and in four massive refugee camps on its outskirts.

Violence between the communities has been uncommon, even during the 21-year civil war between Garang's rebels and the Khartoum government, which is dominated by Muslim Arabs. The war was fought hundreds of kilometres away in the south, and drove thousands of southerners to the capital. - Sapa-AP

Sudanese SPLM Calls For International Probe Into Garang's Death

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005.

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Aug 3, 2005 (AP) — The leadership of John Garang's political movement has called for an international investigation into the weekend helicopter crash in

southern Sudan that killed their leader and 13 others, sparking two days of deadly clashes in the capital.

Pagan Amum, a leading member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, said the group hoped the United Nations, Uganda, Kenya, the United States and Britain would take part in the probe, according to comments published in Wednesday's Sudan Vision newspapers.

The SPLM and the government have said they believe the crash was an accident due to poor weather. It was not clear whether the request for a probe was a change in that stance.

Amum also urged Sudanese to refrain from violence.

"We once again appeal to the people to avoid anything that would mar the climate of peace, albeit the great loss and suffering they feel," Amum told the English daily.

At least 49 people were killed in Khartoum in two days of violence, according to a U.N. official, though the number was not officially confirmed.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan also urged calm, saying of the helicopter crash that "all indications as of now seem to indicate it was an accident."

The government and SPLM have sought to reassure people that the fragile peace was not threatened by the death of the charismatic Garang. Amum stressed that the implementation of January's comprehensive peace agreement would continue as planned.

Two U.S. State Department officials were expected in Sudan Wednesday "to confer with the parties and encourage them to maintain momentum on the comprehensive peace agreement and on Darfur," department spokesman Tom Casey said.

Clashes erupted Monday in Khartoum, when angry SPLA supporters reacted to the news of Garang's death by smashing and burning vehicles and looting stores. Some blamed the government for Garang's death.

On Tuesday, frightened Sudanese in some neighborhoods carried clubs and bricks for protection as the violence turned ethnic and sectarian, pitting Muslim Arabs against Khartoum residents from the mostly Christian and animist south.

Armed gangs, said to be Arabs, broke into homes of southerners in several parts of the capital on Tuesday, and Garang supporters attacked Muslim neighborhoods. Television footage showed southerners' homes torn apart, furniture smashed and doors hanging on hinges.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared for the second night in a row and armored vehicles topped by soldiers patrolled the streets of downtown. In the outlying neighborhoods where the violence was focused, the military presence was even heavier.

On Saturday, Garang's helicopter crashed into a southern mountain range in bad weather, only three weeks after he was named first vice president and joined the government that had long been his enemy. The move was part of a peace deal that southerners and northerners together celebrated as opening a new page in the conflict-torn country.

His death ruptured the long coexistence in Khartoum between northerners and the nearly 2 million southerners who live in squatter neighborhoods in the city and in four massive camps for displaced people on its outskirts.

Clashes left 36 dead on Monday, according to the government.

On Tuesday, armed Arab gangs raided the homes of some neighborhoods heavily populated by southerners in revenge for Monday's attacks, said William Ezekiel, managing editor of the Khartoum Monitor, which focuses largely on southern issues.

Another report said northerners attacked a school, killing six or seven people, including children.

Ezekiel later said he saw seven trucks filled with southerners, some with their hands tied, being taken to a police station.

Angry southerners from camps outside the capital entered the city and attacked and looted markets in Omdurman and killed a Muslim imam, a senior U.N. official in Khartoum said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

Throughout the day, tribal leaders — who carry more weight with many people than government officials — appealed for calm in TV and radio messages.

Many of Khartoum's police forces trained to deal with riot situations are currently in Darfur to help with security in that troubled western region.

Other cities, including Wad Medani in the east and Juba in the south, also reported violence. But the clashes were largely seen as a display of grief and anger over Garang's death and not as a collapse of security.

The government and Garang's movement were struggling to reassure Sudanese that the fragile peace agreement was not threatened by the death of the charismatic Garang.

The worst case scenario was that the power-sharing deal between north and south could collapse and lead to a return to civil war. But all sides were underlining that they were still on board the agreement.

Amum, the SPLA official, said Salva Kiir Maydarit, who has already been named Garang's successor, would fly to Khartoum after the funeral on Saturday to be sworn in as first vice president.

President Omar al-Bashir was expected to attend the burial in the southern city of Juba. Al-Bashir and Garang had been bitter enemies but had taken to calling each other "brother" since Garang came to Khartoum to take the vice president post.

Garang's body is lying at New Site, one of his former bases in southern Sudan, and his family received condolences Tuesday from supporters and friends.

The body will be taken to key towns in the south to allow supporters to pay their respects before heading to Juba, the planned capital of the south's future autonomous government, created under the peace deal and new constitution.

Al-Bashir and Garang had been aiming to finish assembling a power-sharing Cabinet by Aug. 9. It was unclear whether that would be delayed.

Riots Turn Sudan's Capital Into A City Of Ethnic Rifts And Fear

Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 3, 2005

KHARTOUM, Sudan -- Frightened residents carried clubs and bricks for protection yesterday, fearful of deadly violence between Khartoum residents from Sudan's south, enraged over the death of the country's former rebel leader, and Muslim Arabs acting in reprisal for attacks on Muslim neighborhoods.

Armed gangs, said to be Arabs, broke into homes of southerners in several parts of the capital. At the same time, Muslim neighborhoods came under attack by supporters of John Garang, who led a two-decade rebellion in Sudan's mostly Christian and animist south before becoming assuming the post of first vice president in a peace deal.

Garang died Saturday when his helicopter crashed into a southern mountain range in bad weather. Both the government and Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement called it an accident, but many admirers of Garang blamed the Muslim Arab-dominated government and began rioting in the capital.

At least 49 people were killed over two days, according to a U.N. official, though the number was not officially confirmed. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

Yesterday the violence turned ethnic and sectarian, with both northerners and southerners staging attacks.

Television footage showed southerners' homes torn apart, furniture smashed and doors hanging on hinges. In some neighborhoods, southern men carried sticks and bricks, saying they had heard that northerners were coming and they needed to protect themselves.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared in the capital for the second night in a row. In the evening, four armored vehicles sat parked on a downtown street, facing the direction of Omdurman, Khartoum's sister city across the Nile, where some of the worst clashes were reported.

Garang's death came only three weeks after he was named first vice president and joined the government that had long been his enemy, part of a peace deal celebrated throughout the conflict-torn country.

The death ruptured the long coexistence in Khartoum between northerners and the nearly 2 million southerners who live in squatter neighborhoods in the city and in four massive refugee camps on its outskirts.

Violence between the communities had been uncommon, even during the 21-year civil war between Garang's rebels and the Khartoum government. The war was fought hundreds of miles to the south and drove thousands of southerners to the capital.

The government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement tried to bring calm after the crash by promising the peace process would continue. But southerners rampaged in Khartoum Monday. The rioting left 36 dead, according to the government.

Yesterday armed Arab gangs raided the homes of some neighborhoods heavily populated by southerners on Khartoum's outskirts, said William Ezekiel, managing editor of the Khartoum Monitor, which focuses largely on southern issues.

Another report said northerners attacked a school, killing six or seven people, including children.

Angry southerners from camps outside the capital attacked and looted markets in Omdurman and killed an imam, the senior U.N. official in Khartoum said.

Throughout the day, tribal leaders -- who have more influence than government officials with many people -- appealed for calm in TV and radio messages.

Minimal police presence was seen on the streets in the morning; it wasn't until afternoon that riot police and soldiers deployed larger units. In the evening, some neighborhoods that had seen trouble were filled with a heavy military presence.

Ezekiel said he later saw seven trucks filled with southerners, some with their hands tied, being taken to a police station.

The government and the rebel movement were eager to show the power-sharing deal between north and south would continue.

State media reported that President Omar al-Bashir will travel south to the town of Juba to attend Garang's funeral, set for Saturday. Bashir and Garang had been bitter enemies but had taken to calling each other "brother" since Garang came to Khartoum to take the vice president post.

In the meantime, Garang's body will be taken to key towns in the south to allow supporters to pay their respects before it is brought to Juba, the planned capital of the south's future autonomous government, created under the peace deal and new constitution.

Garang will be succeeded by his longtime deputy, Salva Kiir Maydarit -- preserving the foundation of the national unity government.

Sudanese Clash After Garang's Death

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith
August 3, 2005.

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Aug 2, 2005 (AP) — Sudan's capital erupted into ethnic and sectarian conflict Tuesday, with bands of northerners and southerners staging attacks on each other in an outpouring of anger sparked by the death of a former rebel leader turned vice president.

Frightened residents carried clubs and bricks for protection, fearful of the deadly reprisal violence between Muslim Arabs and residents from Sudan's south enraged over the death of John Garang, killed Saturday when his helicopter crashed into a southern mountain range in bad weather.

At least 49 people were killed in the violence that started Monday, according to a U.N. official, though the number was not officially confirmed. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

Armed gangs, said to be Arabs, broke into homes of southerners in several parts of the capital. Television footage showed southerners' homes torn apart, furniture smashed and doors hanging on hinges.

At the same time, Muslim neighborhoods came under attack by supporters of Garang, who led a two-decade rebellion in Sudan's mostly Christian and animist south before becoming the country's vice president in a peace deal.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared for the second night in a row. In the evening, four armored vehicles sat parked on a downtown street, facing the direction of Omdurman, Khartoum's sister-city across the Nile, where some of the worst clashes were reported.

The death of Garang ruptured the long coexistence in Khartoum between northerners and the nearly 2 million southerners who live in squatter neighborhoods in the city and in four massive refugee camps on its outskirts.

Violence between the communities has been uncommon, even during the 21-year civil war between Garang's rebels and the Khartoum government, which is dominated by Muslim Arabs. The war was fought hundreds of miles to the south and drove thousands of southerners to the capital.

Garang's death came only three weeks after he was named first vice president and joined the government that had long been his enemy, part of a peace deal celebrated throughout the conflict-torn country.

The government and Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement insist the crash was an accident and have been trying to bring calm by promising that the peace process will continue.

But southerners rampaged in Khartoum on Monday, many blaming the government for Garang's death. The rioting left 36 dead, according to the government.

Armed Arab gangs raided the homes of some neighborhoods heavily populated by southerners on Khartoum's outskirts, said William Ezekiel, managing editor of the Khartoum Monitor, which focuses largely on southern issues.

Another report said northerners attacked a school, killing six or seven people, including children.

Angry southerners from camps outside the capital attacked and looted markets in Omdurman and killed a Muslim imam, the senior U.N. official in Khartoum said.

Throughout the day, tribal leaders - who have more influence than government officials with many people - appealed for calm in TV and radio messages.

Minimal police presence was seen on the streets in the morning, despite the violence the day before, and it wasn't until afternoon that riot police and soldiers deployed larger units. In the evening, some neighborhoods that had seen trouble were filled with a heavy military presence.

Ezekiel later said he saw seven trucks filled with southerners, some with their hands tied, being taken to a police station.

Many of Khartoum's police forces trained to deal with riot situations are currently in Darfur to help with security in that troubled western region.

Other cities, including Wad Medani in the east and Juba in the south, also reported violence, but the clashes there were largely seen as a display of grief and anger over Garang's death and not as a collapse of security.

The government and the rebel movement were eager to show the power-sharing deal between north and south would continue, amid fears its collapse could lead to a return to civil war.

President Omar al-Bashir will travel south to the town of Juba to attend Garang's funeral, set for Saturday, state media reported. His attendance aimed to signal that both sides consider themselves partners. Al-Bashir and Garang had been bitter enemies but had taken to calling each other "brother" since Garang came to Khartoum to take the vice president post.

In the meantime, Garang's body will be taken to key towns in the south to allow supporters to pay their respects before heading to Juba, the planned capital of the south's future autonomous government, created under the peace deal and new constitution.

Garang will be succeeded by his longtime deputy, Salva Kiir Maydarit - preserving the foundation of the national unity government.

The Security Council called on the Sudanese people "to refrain from violence and maintain peace in the midst of mourning." But the council also stressed that Garang's death should not deter the Sudanese people's struggle "for justice and dignity."

World Rushes To Rescue Of Fragile Post-Garang Sudan

AFP

August 3, 2005

NEW SITE, Sudan, Aug 2 (AFP) — Mourners paid tribute to Sudan's John Garang, as his successor vowed to pursue the rebel-turned-statesman's peace drive and urged restraint as riots flared again in the capital Khartoum.

Foreign diplomats were rushing to Sudan to shore up the fragile peace agreement signed in January between Khartoum and the former southern rebel leader who died in a helicopter crash on Saturday.

In Khartoum, angry southern rioters convinced that the crash that killed their leader was not an accident continued to clash with security forces and northerners the day after at least 42 people were killed in riots.

The UN Security Council appealed for calm.

"The Security Council calls on all Sudanese to honour his memory by restoring peace and calm throughout Sudan," said a statement.

"This is a time for the world community to come together to support Dr Garang's vision of a united and peaceful Sudan," it added.

"The Council reiterates its determination to assist the Sudanese people in their efforts to promote national reconciliation, resolve the conflicts in Darfur and restore peace and stability throughout the country, and to build a prosperous and united Sudan."

In New Site, deep in the south Sudanese bush near the site of the helicopter crash, mourners filed by a simple table where Garang's body lay in a coffin beneath the flag of his Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

His death came barely three weeks after Garang became Sudan's first vice president following the deal that ended 21 years of civil war in Africa's largest country.

Garang's colleagues said he would be buried Saturday in Juba, which he chose as the capital of an autonomous southern Sudan.

"We came to New Site to bring deep condolences to the (SPLM/A) leadership... for the tragic death," said Ali Nfea, Sudan's minister of federal affairs. "We are here to say that we are going to work together with the leadership of the SPLM."

On Monday, the former rebel movement chose Garang's deputy Salva Kiir as their new leader. The veteran southern leader is also expected to take over his predecessor's post as Sudanese first vice president.

Some observers have argued that Kiir's military background and lack of experience as a statesman have left him ill-prepared to tackle the daunting task of keeping the fledgling north-south peace alive.

The charismatic southern leader spearheaded the southern struggle for three decades and had recently come to personify new-found peace in Sudan.

"There cannot be any development when there is no peace," Kiir said, expressing dismay at reports that Garang's death had sparked deadly riots between north and south Sudanese in Khartoum and violent protests in parts of the southern Sudan.

"The message is to remain calm and peaceful," the 54-year-old said in New Site, in his first comments to international journalists since taking over at the helm of the SPLM.

Omdurman Radio, one of the main stations in Sudan, said riots were taking place in Haj Yusef, a Khartoum neighbourhood inhabited mainly by foreigners and where Garang used to live before he returned to the bush in 1983.

Witnesses also reported that some southerners in another Khartoum suburb were being evicted by their northern landlords.

The smouldering violence came a day after violence broke out in the heart of the city, leaving at least 42 dead, according to hospital sources.

On Tuesday, a massive deployment of policemen backed by soldiers and armoured personnel carriers were patrolling the city centre.

International diplomats were dispatched to shore up the north-south peace process in Sudan, which is already torn by conflicts in the western region of Darfur and in the eastern Red Sea state.

Connie Newman, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Roger Winter, special representative for Sudan, were expected in Sudan on Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey said the pair "will be going to southern Sudan and to Khartoum to confer with the parties and encourage them to maintain momentum on the comprehensive peace agreement and on Darfur."

The United States has worked hard to nail down the north-south peace pact and try to end what it calls a genocide in the western region of Darfur that has left up to 300,000 people dead and 2.5 million homeless.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited the country for talks with Garang and other officials on July 21. Her deputy, Robert Zoellick, has made three trips since April.

President George W. Bush praised Garang as "a visionary leader and peacemaker" and affirmed Monday the US commitment to restoring peace to Sudan.

Uganda Fears Garang's Death May Prolong Brutal War With LRA Rebels

AFP

August 3, 2005

KAMPALA, Aug 2 (AFP) — As Sudan ponders the future of its landmark north-south peace deal in the wake of the weekend death of ex-rebel leader John Garang, neighboring Uganda voiced fears Tuesday that his demise may prolong its own long-running war with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

To many here, Garang was not only a powerful symbol of southern Sudanese aspirations but also a potent counterbalance to the notoriously brutal LRA, which operates in northern Uganda and has numerous bases over the border in south Sudan.

"To me, this is a blow to our peace process," northern Ugandan lawmaker Reagan Okumu said of Garang's death on Saturday when the Ugandan helicopter in which he was returning to Sudan crashed in poor weather.

"Garang had personal attachment with the people in northern Uganda and it was hoped that if he took firm control over southern Sudan, this LRA menace will cease," he told AFP.

In fact, Garang's last public comments, made here before his ill-fated flight, were a vow to flush the LRA and its elusive leader Joseph Kony out of southern Sudan from where they have launched savage raids into northern Uganda for 19 years.

"Joseph Kony won't be hiding there for long," the 60-year-old leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and newly appointed first vice president of Sudan told Uganda's state-run New Vision newspaper on Friday.

"We need to provide peace, security and stability," he said ahead of talks on security in the region with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, in whose helicopter he would perish 24 hours later.

Such remarks endeared him to the Ugandan military and the civilian population of rural northern Uganda which has been systematically terrorized by the LRA's mass killings, rapes, mutilations and abductions of children for nearly a generation.

"He was committed to joining hands with us to stop this rural terrorism," said Ugandan army spokesman Shaban Bantariza. "But all this is lost now, we only hope that others will continue from where he ended."

While acknowledging an impact on the LRA rebellion, which has claimed the lives of tens of thousands and displaced more than 1.6 million people, Bantariza insisted Garang's death would not make it easier for the guerrillas to fight.

"The unfortunate incident in Sudan does not favor them at all," he told AFP.

Others are not so certain, however, noting reports that LRA fighters had been heard rejoicing and celebrating at the news of Garang's death in intercepted radio transmissions from northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

"Some pressure on them is erased by the death of Garang for some time," said an analyst for an internationally respected think tank who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of his work in the region.

"A peace process is multi-faceted," the analyst said. "The SPLA and Garang in this case were part of the dynamics that were shaping it in Uganda."

Of most concern to him and to church and community leaders in northern Uganda most affected by the LRA's reign of terror is the potential for Garang's death to derail the January 9 north-south Sudan peace deal.

They said the pact that ended Africa's longest-running civil war is critical to restoring stability in southern Sudan and, in the process, dealing with LRA who have camped there for years with the backing of the Sudanese government.

Damage to the Sudan agreement from Garang's absence could have "dire consequences" for attempts to resolve the conflict in northern Uganda, the analyst said, a sentiment echoed in the region.

"If his death disrupts peace in southern Sudan, this may affect us negatively," said Father Carlos Rodriguez, a Catholic priest in Gulu district which has been the epicenter of the LRA war.

"A peaceful southern Sudan is a guarantee for peace for us in northern Uganda," he told AFP by phone from Gulu town.

The East African Standard (a Kenyan daily)

August 3, 2005

In a statement yesterday, Museveni said the helicopter M1-172 (VIP version) had been recently overhauled and some of its instruments upgraded.

"It was very-well equipped with the ability to show the pilots the altitude using both radio altimeter that shows you how far you are from the ground as well as a barometric altimeter that shows you how high you are from sea level; a weather radar that shows you bad clouds ahead as well as mountain ranges up to 100 kilometers away; Advanced Moving Map System (AMMS) that shows you where you are at any particular time and the terrain features such as mountains; a powerful flood light system to avoid hitting trees and other landing site obstacles; and audio warning in case you are approaching a mountain ahead. The helicopter was also wired against lightning strikes, according to the manufacturers. It could, therefore, fly both at night and during the day," he added.

Museveni said he had created panel of three experts to look into this crash. "We have also approached a certain foreign government to rule out any form of sabotage or terrorism," he added.

Museveni said it was a great shock and a source of anger to see that Dr Garang, who had survived so many trials and tribulations, could lose his life when peace was beginning to come back to Sudan.

"Dr Garang was one of the most visionary and incisive revolutionary thinkers and nationalists Africa has ever produced. However, the struggle for the dignity and progress of patriotic Africa is unstoppable," he added.

He declared a three day mourning period from today, during which flags would fly at half mast.

Tributes poured in from around the region and beyond.

South African President Thabo Mbeki urged all parties to respect peace "as a legacy to the work and commitment of Dr Garang". And Washington, which had worked increasingly closely with Garang and pinned hopes on him to both cement a southern peace accord and end the Darfur conflict, also sent condolences. "It's a great loss. He was instrumental in bringing peace," a US official, who asked not to be named, said.

Garang arrived in Uganda on Friday in a private charter plane for a brief visit, during which he held talks with Museveni. He was received by vice-president Gilbert Bukenya at Entebbe International Airport at 1pm and flew directly to President Museveni's country home in Rwakitura, in Mbarara district, southern Uganda.

The two leaders discussed issues of bilateral interest to the two neighboring countries and the political future of Sudan.

Garang spent the night at Rwakitura, where he met European Union officials and US ambassador Jimmy Kolker.

He later left in the presidential chopper at about 4pm with his six companions and seven crewmembers to return to southern Sudan, near Kidepo.

The plane stopped at Entebbe airport for fuelling and left five minutes before 5pm.

By 6.30pm the plane was over flying Karenga and Kapedo areas near his designated destination.

But after a short while, the pilot sent a signal to the Ugandan control saying he was unable to land in New Site due to bad weather and was ready to go back.

After a brief communication Ugandan authorities lost contact with the aircraft and its military had begun a search for the plane.

A combined Sudanese-Ugandan-Kenyan search for the aircraft was launched immediately but later stopped because of darkness, officials said.

Kenya is said to have activated its military radar in readiness to detect the chopper for the better part of Sunday in vain.

Weather reports showed rain in the area.

The craft was heard near Pirre, a mountainous region near the Kenyan and Sudanese borders on the edge of a large national park.

The bodies were later found near the wreckage of the helicopter by local security officials.

Garang was sworn in as first vice president in a landmark ceremony on July 9 and signed with his old enemy President Omar Hassan al-Bashir a new interim constitution.

"My presence here today in Khartoum is a true signal that the war is over," Garang said when he took his oath of office. Garang and Bashir had been due to form a new government by August 9.

The leader of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) returned to Khartoum for the first time in two decades on July 8, greeted by more than one million people — so many that some people were crushed and killed in the crowd.